



Courtesy of the House Ways and Means Committee

House Committee to Hold Hearing on Border Security and Immigration and its Impact on Social Security, Medicare and Other Programs

WASHINGTON – Next week, the Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on the impact of border security and immigration on programs such as Social Security, Medicare and other areas of the Committee's jurisdiction.

What: Hearing of the Ways and Means Committee
Focus: Border Security and Immigration
When: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.
Where: 1100 Longworth House Office Building

Immigrants to the United States are an essential part of the fabric of our nation. They contribute to our economy and participate in our society in countless ways as they work, pay taxes, raise their families, and utilize many of the same public services and benefits that are available to all Americans.

However, lax border security and inadequate enforcement of immigration laws has contributed to a substantial increase in illegal immigration. Since the last major immigration reform legislation was enacted twenty years ago – the *Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986* (P.L. 99-603) – the estimated number of illegal immigrants in the United States has nearly quadrupled, from 3.2 million in 1986 to 12 million in 2006. Illegal immigration and proposals to address it affect our Nation's benefit programs, health care costs, and tax system.

"Our first priority is to secure our borders and enforce our laws," said Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA). "Next, we must carefully consider how proposals to modify immigration policy, including those that would legalize millions of illegal immigrants, would affect Social Security and other benefit programs, our health care system and tax revenues."

“The actions we take today will have a profound impact on America’s economy and society, and we must take the time to do it right. We need a comprehensive, long-term solution that recognizes the important role immigrants play in our society and economy, while ensuring there is respect for the rule of law,” added Thomas.

For more info on this hearing, please visit:

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail&hearing=498>

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